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ABSTRACT

Descriptions of plants which serve as food and/or protection for birds of the northeast United States are presented in this publication. Explanations are given for each plant as to: ornamental value; time in bloom and in fruit; height; adaptations; and the number of bird species that use it. Practical ideas and suggestions are outlined for attracting birds to home and gardens. A model of a conservation treatment for a suburban lot is offered and illustrated. Considerations and comments are directed to birds' needs and food plots, cutback borders and clearings, grassed and open areas, water areas, living screens and living fences. A list of pamphlets on plants, soils, and conservation methods is also provided. (ML)

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ED271304

conservation plantings for the Northeast

INVITE BIRDS TO YOUR HOME

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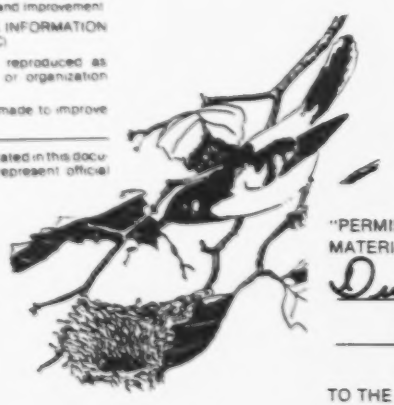

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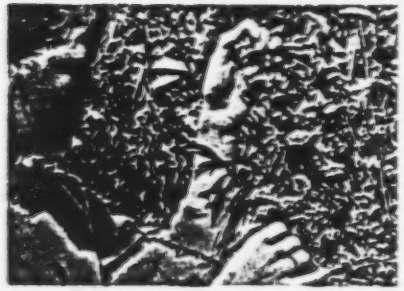
PLANTS FOR BIRDS, BEAUTY, PROTECTION



AUTUMN OLIVE *Elaeagnus umbellata*

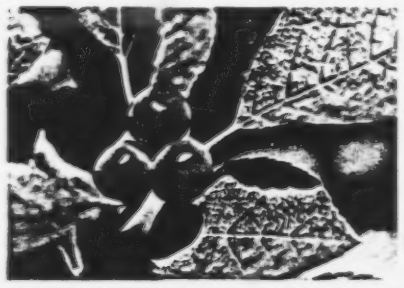
Bird use: 25 species

Ornamental values: Large, spreading shrub with gray-green foliage — fragrant, small, yellowish bloom; abundant, speckled, cardinal fruits.

Adaptations: Deep, moist to dry soil; sun to light shade; cardinal variety, winter hardy.

In bloom: May-July *In fruit:* September-February

Sources: Commercial nurseries, several State nurseries.



HOLLY ***Ilex spp.***
Winterberry illus.

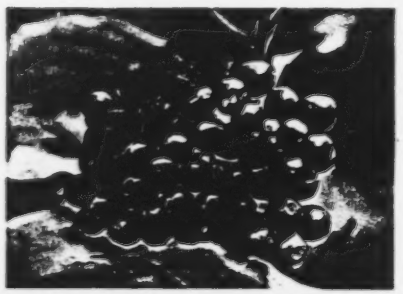
Bird use: 22 species

Ornamental values: Numerous varieties—shrub to tree form; evergreen or shedding —glossy dark-green foliage; small whitish blooms; bright-red to yellow fruits.

Adaptations: Wet to well-drained soil; sun to shade.

In fruit: August-June

Sources: Commercial nurseries, wilding transplants or cuttings.



SILKY DOGWOOD *Cornus amomum*

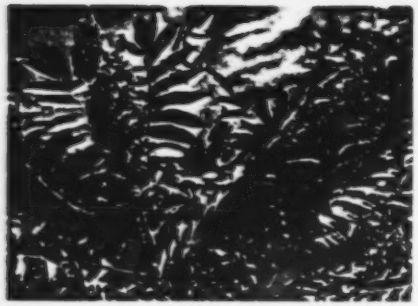
Bird use: 10 species

Ornamental values: Medium shrub—white flat flower clusters and blue fruit clusters; bronze fall foliage; reddish-purple winter stems.

Adaptations: Wet to dry soil; sun to light shade.

In bloom: May-July 3 *In fruit:* August-September

Sources: Commercial nurseries, State nurseries, wilding transplants and cuttings.



SUMAC

Rhus spp.
Staghorn illus.

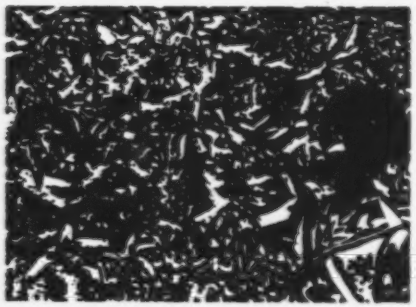
Bird use: 17 species

Ornamental values: Low to tall shrubs that have interesting shapes—palmlike or trifoliate leaves, greenish flower spikes, conical clusters of red fruits, brilliant fall foliage.

Adaptations: Well-drained to very dry shallow soil; sun.

In bloom: June-July *In fruit:* September-May

Sources: Root cuttings, commercial nurseries.



CHERRY

Prunus spp.
Chokecherry illus.

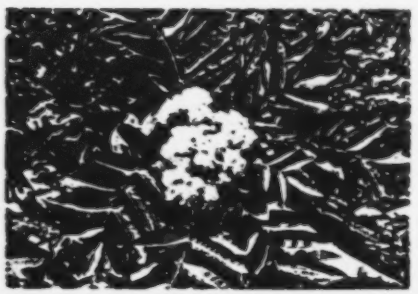
Bird use: 40 species

Ornamental values: Small to large trees —small fine-toothed leaves, yellow in fall; showy white flower clusters or drooping spikes; small bright-red to black fruits.

Adaptations: Moist to dry soil; sun to light shade.

In bloom: April-June *In fruit:* Bird cherry, June; chokecherry, July-September; pin cherry, August-October; Black cherry, July-November.

Sources: Commercial nurseries, wilding transplants.



MOUNTAIN-ASH

Sorbus spp.

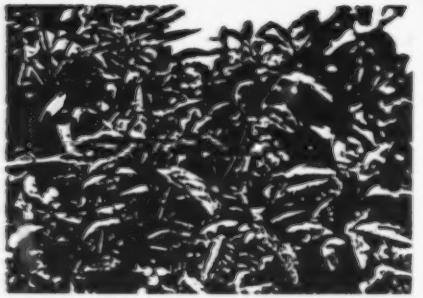
Bird use: 15 species

Ornamental values: Medium tree with attractive compound leaves—flat, white flower clusters; bright-red or orange berry clusters.

Adaptations: Moist to dry soil; sun.

In bloom: May-June *In fruit:* August-March

Sources: Commercial nurseries, wilding transplants



GRAY-STEMMED DOGWOOD

Cornus paniculata

Bird use: 16 species

Ornamental values: Thicket-forming medium shrubs—small, flat, white flower clusters; white berries on pink stems.

Adaptations: Well-drained to dry soil; sun.

In bloom: June *In fruit:* August-November

Sources: Wilding transplants and cuttings.

AMERICAN CRANBERRYBUSH

Viburnum trilobum

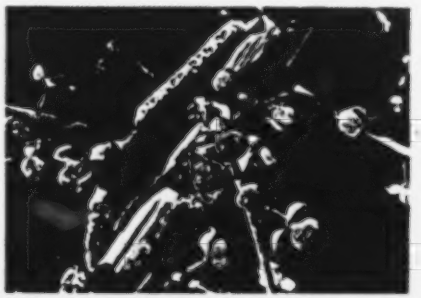
Bird use: 34 species

Ornamental values: Upright tall shrub with maplelike foliage—showy, white, flat clusters of flowers; glossy scarlet fruit clusters.

Adaptations: Deep, wet to well-drained soil; sun to light shade.

In bloom: May-June *In fruit:* September-May

Sources: Commercial nurseries, some State nurseries, wilding transplants or cuttings.



BITTERSWEET

Celastrus scandens

Bird use: 10 species

Ornamental values: Twining vine with pale-green foliage — greenish flowers; bright-red berries in yellow or orange husks.

Adaptations: Well-drained to dry soil; sun to light shade.

In bloom: May-June *In fruit:* September-December

Sources: Commercial nurseries, some State nurseries, cuttings.

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AMUR HONEYSUCKLE — *Lonicera maacki*

Bird use: 8 species
Ornamental values: Large shrub—white blooms; red fruits.
Adaptations: Well-drained to dry soil; sun to shade.
In bloom: July-August *In fruit:* October-April
Sources: Commercial nurseries.

CRABAPPLE — *Malus spp.*

Bird use: 18 species
Ornamental values: Small trees—showy white to pink blooms; red, orange, and yellow fruits.
Adaptations: Moist to dry soil; sun.
In bloom: April-May *In fruit:* September-April
Sources: Commercial nurseries, grafting, budding.

FIRETHORN — *Pyracantha spp.*

Bird use: 17 species
Ornamental values: Medium shrubs—white blooms; orange or red berries.
Adaptations: Moist to well-drained soil; sun.
In bloom: June *In fruit:* September-March
Sources: Commercial nurseries.

FLOWERING DOGWOOD — *Cornus florida*

Bird use: 36 species
Ornamental values: Large shrub to small tree with layered foliage—highly ornamental white to reddish blooms; bunched bright-red fruits; bronze fall color.
Adaptations: Well-drained to dry soil; sun to shade.
In bloom: April-June *In fruit:* September-February
Sources: Commercial nurseries.

HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY — *Vaccinium corymbosum*

Bird use: 36 species
Ornamental values: Medium shrub with dark-green leathery leaves—small greenish-white blooms; bright-blue berries; scarlet fall color.
Adaptations: Wet to dry soil; sun.
In bloom: June-August *In fruit:* July-October
Sources: Commercial nurseries, wilding transplants.

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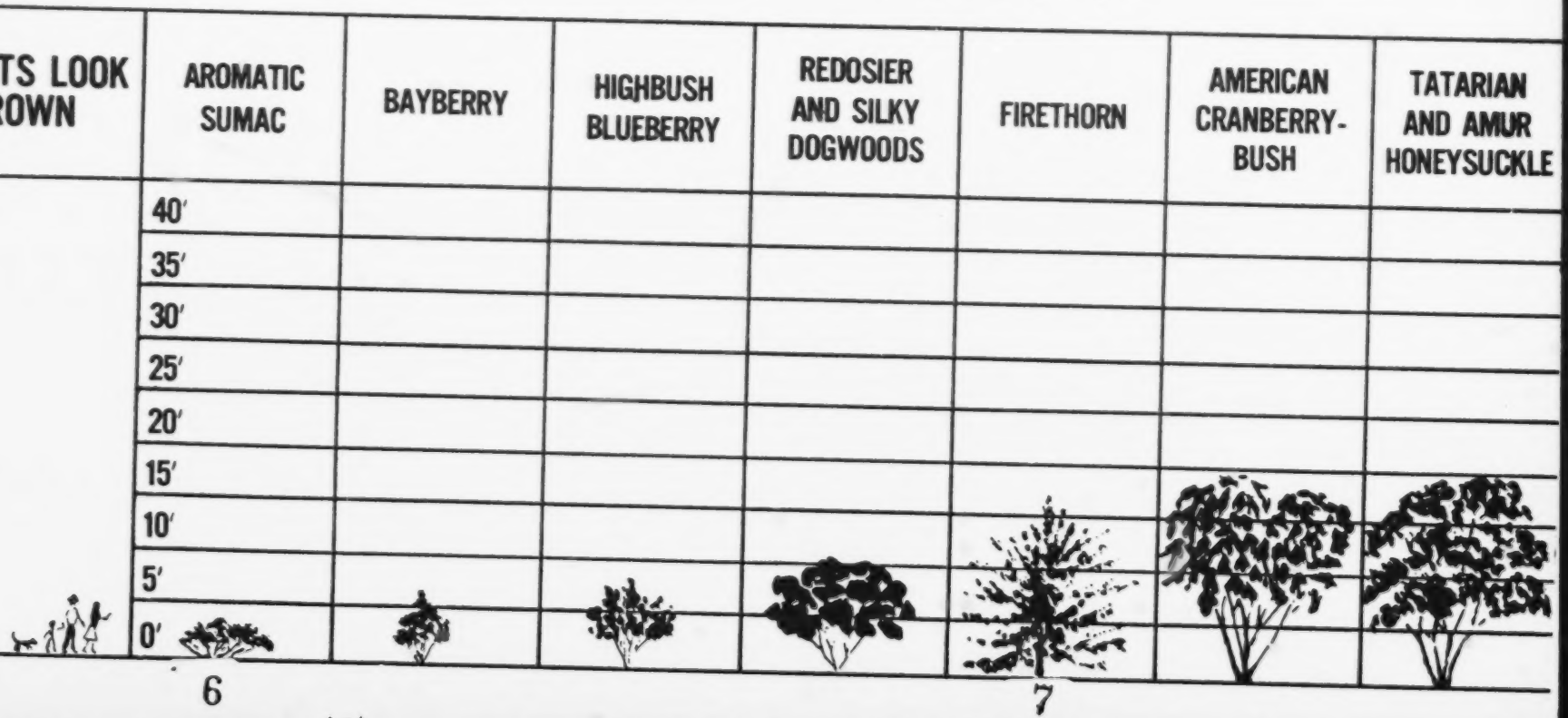


HAWTHORN *Crataegus spp.*

Bird use: 25 species

Ornamental values: Small, domed tree—pale-green toothed leaves; abundant, clustered, white flowers; orange to red fruits.

Adaptations: Deep, moist to dry soil; sun.

In bloom: May-June *In fruit:* October-March (Variable)

Sources: Commercial nurseries.

REDCEDAR *Juniperus virginiana*

Bird use: 68 varieties

Ornamental values: Medium evergreen tree (many varieties)—dense blue-green needles; small, dusty-blue, berrylike cones.

Adaptations: Moist to dry soil; sun to light shade.

In fruit: September-May

Sources: Commercial nurseries, wilding transplants.

REDOSIER DOGWOOD *Cornus stolonifera*

Bird use: 19 species

Ornamental values: Medium shrub—white blooms; white berries; red stems in winter.

Adaptations: Wet to well-drained soil; sun to shade.

In bloom: May-July *In fruit:* July-September

Sources: Commercial nurseries, wilding transplants, cuttings.

TATARIAN HONEYSUCKLE *Lonicera tatarica*

Bird use: 17 species

Ornamental values: Large shrub—pink to yellow blooms; red twinned berries.

Adaptations: Well-drained to dry soil; sun to shade.

In bloom: June-July *In fruit:* July-September

Sources: Commercial nurseries.

VIRGINIA CREEPER *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

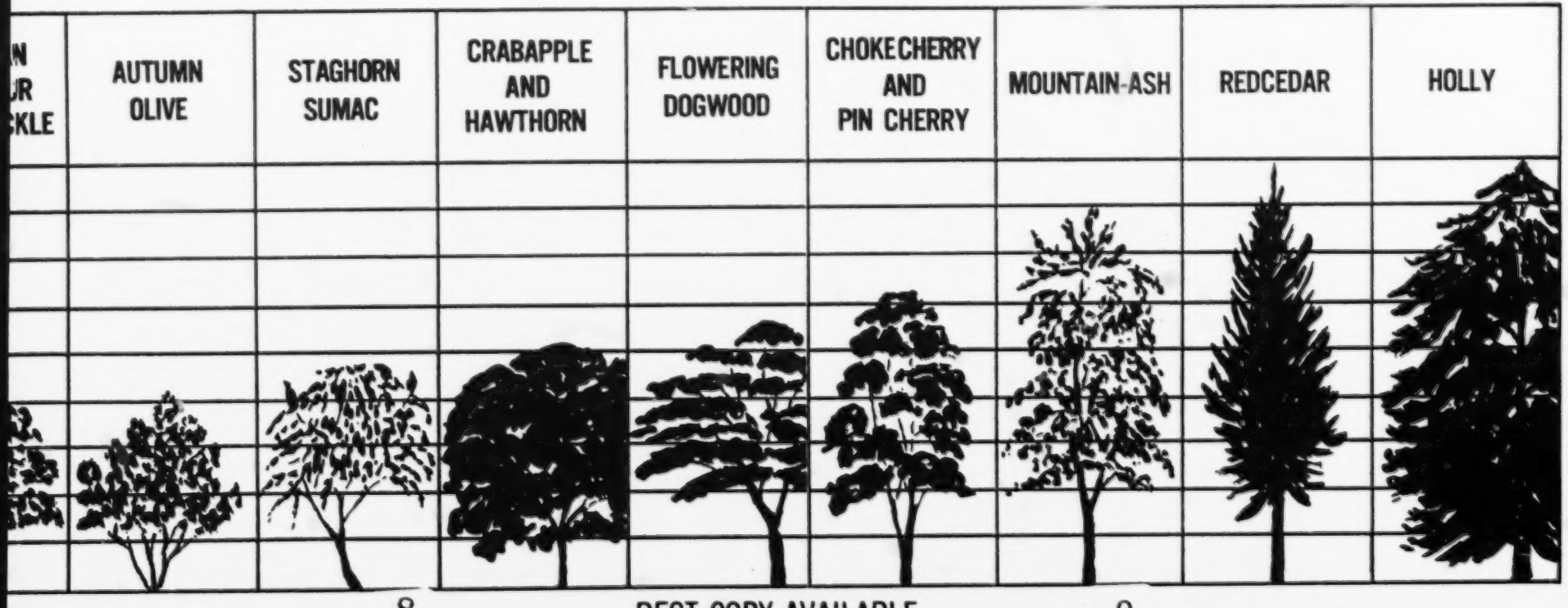
Bird use: 37 species

Ornamental values: Ground or climbing vine—blue to black berries; red in fall.

Adaptations: Moist to dry soil; sun to shade.

In fruit: August-February

Sources: Wilding transplants, cuttings, commercial nurseries.



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INVITE BIRDS TO YOUR HOME

The songs of birds and their colorful, sprightly activities add much to the joys of country or suburban living. Birds help reduce the insect pests that attack flowers, lawns, gardens, and people.

Perhaps you've had some experience with *manmade* devices that attract birds—feeders, birdbaths, birdhouses, nesting shelves, and the like. But here's a *natural* way to invite birds to your home and grounds.

Plant shrubs, trees, vines, and other plants that serve the various needs of birds. Such plants not only attract birds, but they can also bring beauty to your property.

The plants shown here are pleasing both to birds and to the human eye. With the same stroke that you get your landscaping done, you provide places where birds can feed, sing, court, nest, rest, hide, and do all the other things that birds do.

Birds regularly feed on berries, and their favorite berries are usually bright-hued and decorative. Their needs for shelter are met by hedges and other dense shrubbery that can fit handsomely in the backyard scene.

Trees for nesting and singing offer shade and beauty to the householder. And the pool or pond built for wildlife can also serve as a recreation area for the family.

Mix and Blend

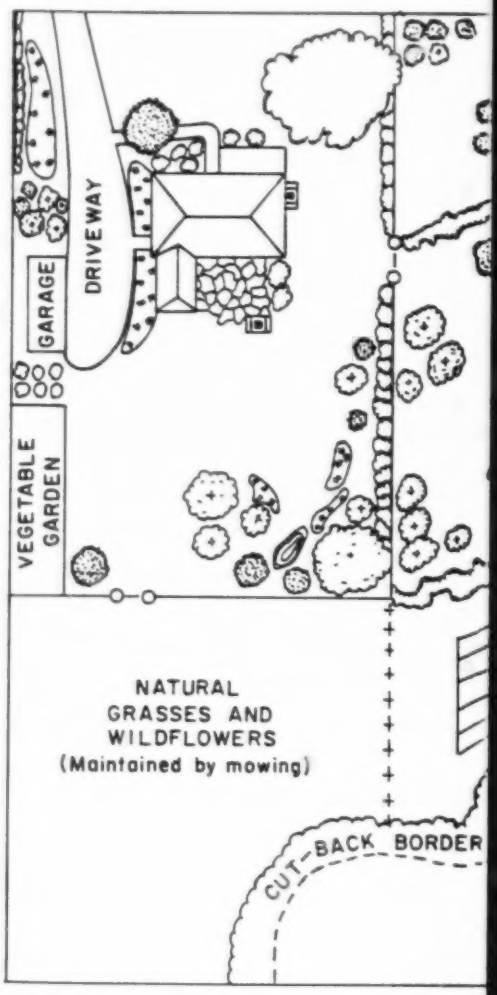
Birds like variety. Bear this in mind when you blend the plants attractive to birds into the conservation-planned landscape of both your yard and grounds. Plan a rich intermingling of species, sizes, and shapes of plants. And lay out your plantings in varied patterns. Give birds a wide choice for their various activities—from the crowns of tall trees all the way down to the low seed-heads in flowerbeds and lawns.

You have any number of options as to hardwoods and conifers; vines, shrubs, and trees; grasses; flowers; and even weeds to create a landscape conservation design—one that will bring birds outside your window. If your yard is small, you'll have to depend mostly on single specimen plants. But if you have extensive grounds you can use hedges, clumps, feeding strips, and other massed plantings. If you have a wooded area, a small clearing lends variety to the landscape for birds.

By studying the plants already present along with your general plan for landscaping, you can bring in a diversity of plant forms, food producers, and shelter plants that would otherwise be missing. Many common shade trees and landscape shrubs, for example, yield little food for birds. Here you may work in autumn olive, honeysuckle, or other good fruit-bearing shrubs. Yards and grounds that have only leaf-shedding trees and shrubs are improved by adding junipers, cedars, yews, and other evergreens that provide shelter to birds in winter.

Be sure to think about being able to *see* the birds. Put the plants where they can be observed from a window, patio, or terrace. And choose those reported to have high bird use for best results. Careful

CONSERVATION TR
A SUBURBAN LOT—



LEGEN

Pool or birdbath

Flowerbed

Shade tree

Large conifer

Low conifer

Ornamental or

Mix and Blend

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You have any number of options as to hardwoods and conifers; vines, shrubs, and trees; grasses; flowers; and even weeds to create a landscape conservation design—one that will bring birds outside your window. If your yard is small, you'll have to depend mostly on single specimen plants. But if you have extensive grounds you can use hedges, clumps, feeding strips, and other massed plantings. If you have a wooded area, a small clearing lends variety to the landscape for birds.

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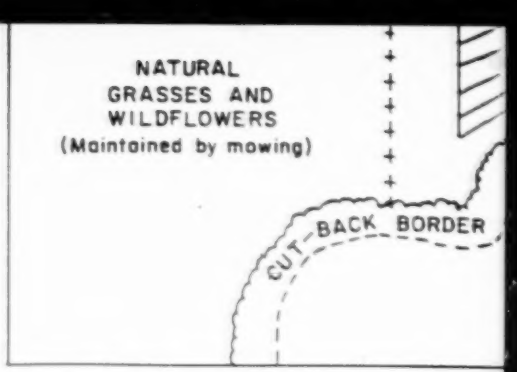
Be sure to think about being able to *see* the birds. Put the plants where they can be observed from a window, patio, or terrace. And choose those reported to have high bird use for best results. Careful attention to the periods of bloom and availability of choice foods makes it possible to have a succession of floral displays and bird foods throughout the year.



LEGEND

- Pool or birdbath
- Flowerbed
- Shade tree
- Large conifer
- Low conifer
- Ornamental or garden shrubs
- Shrubs for birds

FOR HELP

You can get further information on plants and conservation methods at your local soil conservation district office. The Soil Conservation Service, as part of its assistance to conservation districts, helps individual land users apply many soil and water conservation practices that increase wildlife. County agents, commercial nurserymen, landscape architects, and bird societies can also help.

U. S. Department of Agriculture pamphlets that may be helpful are:
Soil Conservation at Home (AIB-244)
Making Land Produce Useful Wildlife (FB-2035)
More Wildlife Through Soil and Water Conservation (AIB-175)
Autumn Olive For Wildlife and Other Conservation Uses (L-458)
Growing the Flowering Dogwood (G-88)

Plants listed in this brochure are adapted and useful in the Northeast and as far south and west as Virginia and Kentucky.

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Approved for reprinting January 1980

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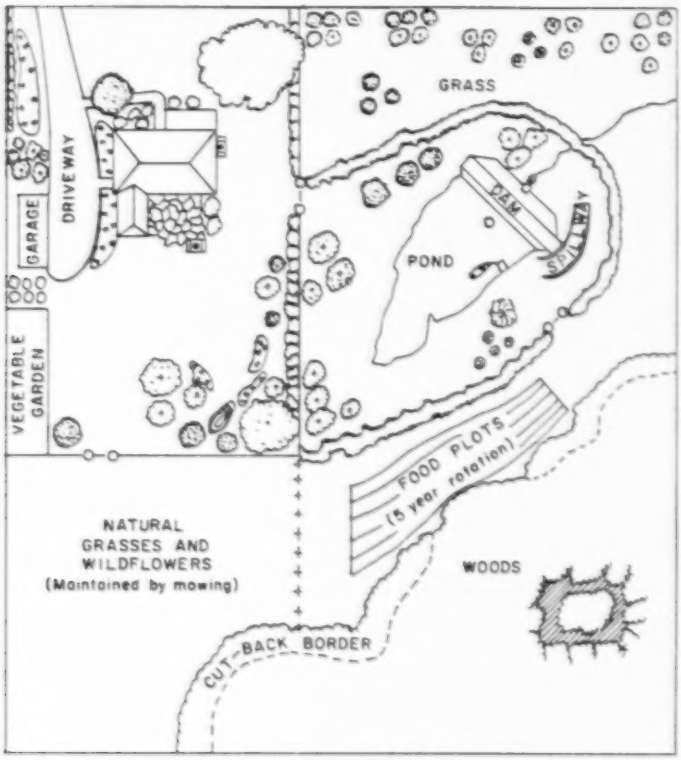
CONSERVATION TREATMENTS FOR A SUBURBAN LOT—LARGE OR SMALL



LEGEND

- Pool or birdbath
- Flowerbed
- Shade tree
- Large conifer
- Low conifer
- Ornamental or garden shrubs
- Shrubs for birds
- Trees for birds
- Shrub hedge
- Weeping willow
- Woodland clearing
- Natural or planted hedgerow
- Conifer screen with planted shrub borders

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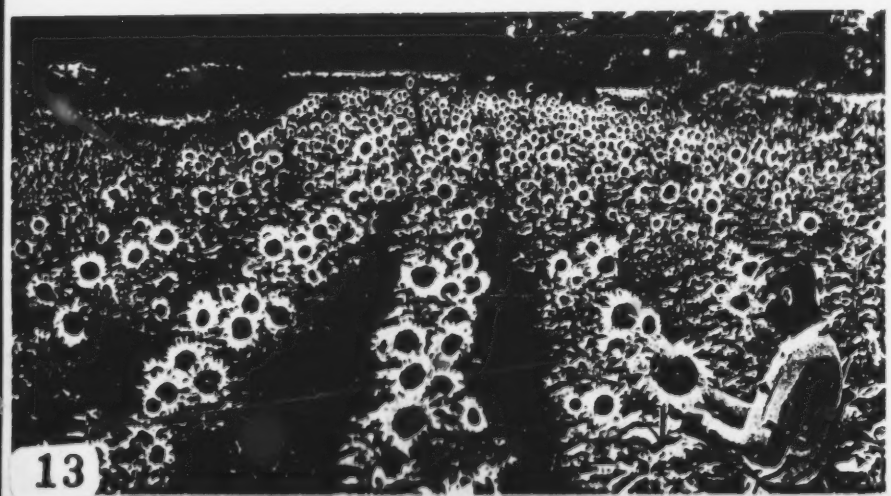
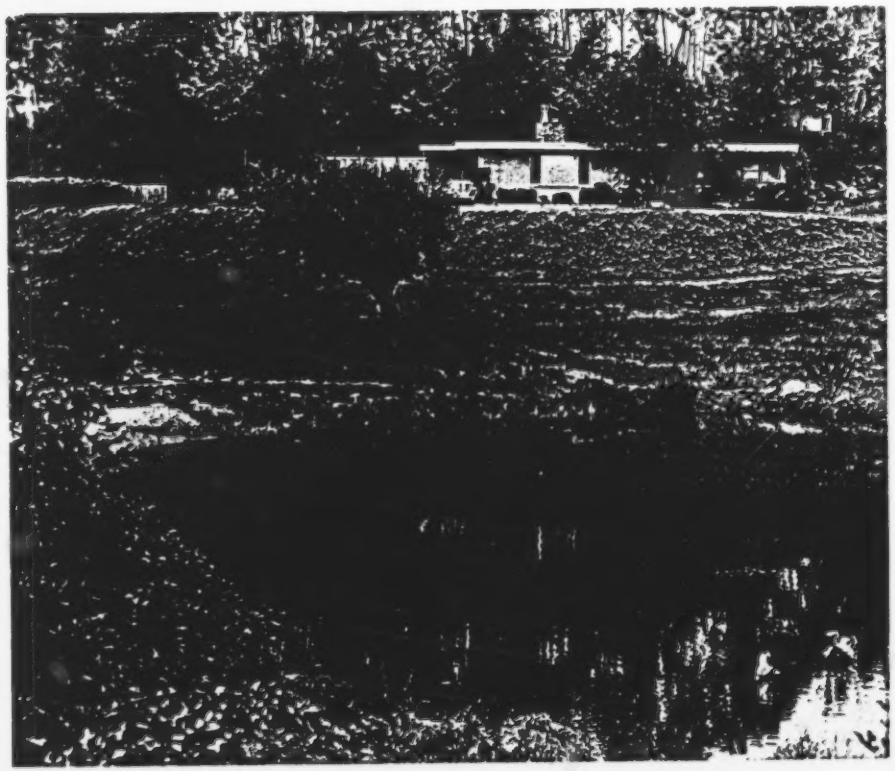
CONSERVATION PLANNING

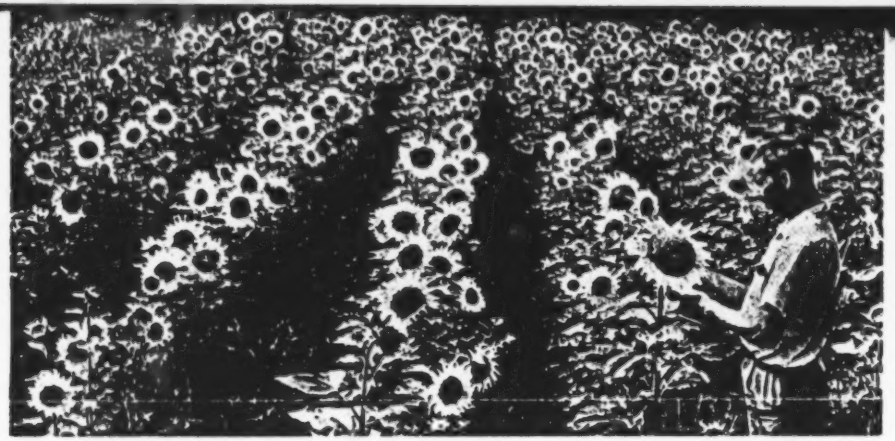
The design to the left is a small-scale sample of the conservation treatments applied on farms and other large rural properties in the Northeast. It shows, first, (top left) what can be done on a house lot of ordinary size. Then, if you have additional space, it shows other treatments that can be added.

You need to consider, when planting for birds, such things as soil, slope, drainage, exposure aspects, and climate as well as your personal wishes. Added benefits occur where plantings can be sited to provide shade, soil stabilization, and control of potentially damaging water runoff.





Water Areas.—When you build a small pool or pond you'll get an extra dividend in birds. Border these watering places with contoured hedges and plant clumps of shrubs and conifers in corners well back from the water. Willows are especially attractive to orioles, warblers, and catbirds.



Food Plots.—You can set up a strip cropping rotation of bird foods in small fields. Plant a different strip each year. Corn, buckwheat, sunflowers, and Japanese and German millets are good foods for birds. You can plow a different strip each year and let nature do the planting. A good rotation opens strips 1–3–5–2–4 successively.

Cutback Borders and Clearings.—Cut your fireplace wood from along the edges of the woods. Cut all trees over 4 inches in diameter in a strip 20 feet or more deep along the edge. Native shrubs, vines, wildflowers, and herbs will soon fill this strip. You'll find it full of birds too. Clear-cut small blocks about 50 feet square inside the woods, especially around nut- or fruit-bearing trees. Birds concentrate in clearings, and nut or fruit yields increase.

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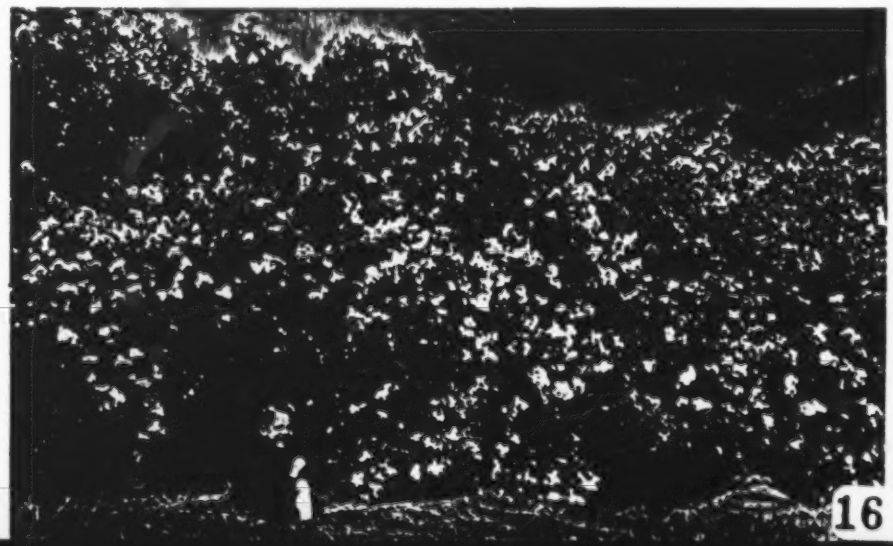
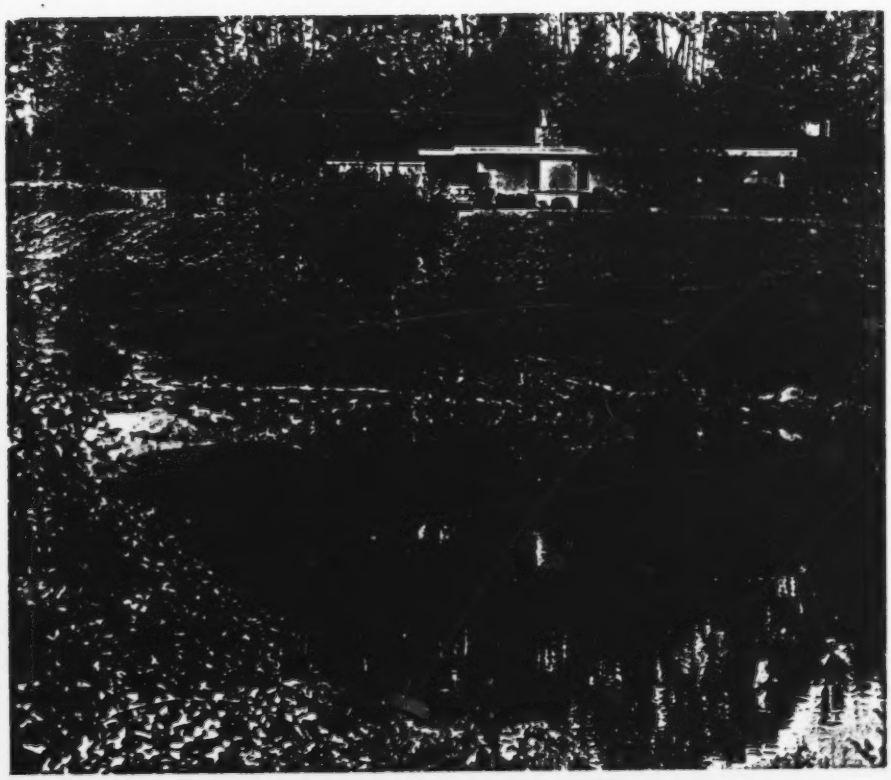
"Living Screens".—Screen with windbreak plantings unpleasant views and areas where privacy is desired. Conifers bordered by such shrubs as autumn olive, dogwood, or honeysuckle make effective screens.





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"Living Screens".—Screen with windbreak plantings unpleasant views and areas where privacy is desired. Conifers bordered by such shrubs as autumn olive, dogwood, or honeysuckle make effective screens.

"Living Fences".—Hedgerows across open fields, either planted or encouraged to come in naturally, furnish a diversity of plant life that adds both numbers and species of birds to your lot. Autumn olive, Tatarian honeysuckle, and dogwoods are good for planting. If you plow a 6-foot strip in which you set poles about every 20 feet and string wire or stout cord between the poles, perching birds will do the planting.